1-30. (canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of cosmetic treatment for obtaining a slimming effect on the human body, comprising the application on the parts of the body in need thereof of an effective amount of a cosmetic composition containing an active agent selected from the group consisting of phytosphingosine and its cosmetically acceptable salts.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said method is intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said active agent is phytosphingosine hydrochloride.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the concentration of said active agent is comprised between 0.001% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31,

wherein said composition further comprises at least one cosmetically acceptable lipolytic agent.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said lipolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of adenosine-3',5'-cyclic monophosphate (CAMP) and its cosmetically acceptable derivatives.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein said cosmetically acceptable derivatives are selected from the group consisting of the salts and acylated derivatives of CAMP.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of mono- and dibutyril derivatives of CAMP.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein said CAMP or said lipolytic agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35,

wherein said lipolytic agent is an adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent.

41. (Previously Presented) The use according to claim 40, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is selected from the group consisting of forskolin and plant extracts containing the same.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is selected from the group consisting of extracts of Coleus forskohlii and Plectranthus barbatus.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said adenylate cyclase activating agent is an extract of the plant Tephrosia purpurea, at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of said

composition.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said lipolytic agent is a phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is selected from the group consisting of xanthines, IBMX, caffeine and theophylline.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 10% by weight, with respect to the weight of said composition.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of cosmetic treatment for stimulating the

synthesis of leptin by adipocytes, comprising the application on the parts of the body in need thereof of an effective amount of a cosmetic composition containing an active agent selected from the group consisting of phytosphingosine and its cosmetically acceptable salts.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49, wherein said method is intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat.

51. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49, wherein said active agent is phytosphingosine hydrochloride.

52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49, wherein the concentration of said active agent is comprised between 0.001% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

53. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49, wherein said composition further comprises at least one cosmetically acceptable lipolytic agent.

54. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 53, wherein said lipolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of adenosine-

3',5'-cyclic monophosphate (CAMP) and its cosmetically acceptable derivatives.

55. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 54, wherein said cosmetically acceptable derivatives are selected from the group consisting of the salts and acylated derivatives of CAMP.

56. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 55, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of mono- and dibutyril derivatives of CAMP.

57. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 56, wherein said CAMP or said lipolytic agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

58. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 53, wherein said lipolytic agent is an adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent.

59. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 58, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is selected from the group consisting of forskolin and plant extracts containing the same.

60. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 59, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

61. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 59, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is selected from the group consisting of extracts of Coleus forskohlii and Plectranthus barbatus.

62. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 59, wherein said adenylate cyclase activating agent is an extract of the plant Tephrosia purpurea, at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of said composition.

63. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 53, wherein said lipolytic agent is a phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent.

64. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 63, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is selected from the group consisting of xanthines, IBMX, caffeine and theophylline.

65. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 64, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine.

66. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 64, wherein said phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 10% by weight, with respect to the weight of said composition.

67. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition, notably intended for reducing subcutaneous excess fat, containing, as active agents: phytosphingosine or one of its cosmetically acceptable salts, and at least one lipolytic agent selected from the group consisting of CAMP and its cosmetically acceptable lipolytic derivatives, adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agents and phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agents, in a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

68. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 67, wherein said cosmetically acceptable salt is phytosphingosine hydrochloride.

69. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 67, containing from 0.001 to 1%, by weight of phytosphingosine or of one of its cosmetically acceptable salts.

70. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 67, wherein said lipolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of CAMP and its cosmetically acceptable derivatives.

71. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 70, wherein said cosmetically acceptable derivative of CAMP is selected from the group consisting of the salts and acylated derivatives of CAMP.

72. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 71, wherein said cosmetically acceptable derivative of CAMP is selected from the group consisting of mono- and dibutyryl derivatives of CAMP.

73. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 70, wherein said lipolytic agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight with respect to the total weight of

said composition.

74. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 67, wherein said the lipolytic agent is an adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent.

75. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 74, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is selected from the group consisting of forskolin and plant extracts containing the same.

76. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 75, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 1%, by weight with respect to the total weight of said composition.

77. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 75, wherein said adenylate cyclase enzyme activating agent is an extract of Coleus forskohlii or of Plectranthus barbatus.

78. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to

claim 74, wherein said adenylate cyclase activating agent is an extract of the plant Tephrosia purpurea.

79. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 78, wherein the extract of Tephrosia purpurea is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the composition.

80. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 67, wherein said lipolytic agent is a phosphodiesterase enzyme inhibiting agent.

81. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 80, wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibiting enzyme agent is selected from the group consisting of xanthines, caffeine and theophylline.

82. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 81, wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibiting enzyme agent is selected from the group consisting of 3-isobutyl-1-methyl-xanthine and IBMX.

83. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 81, wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibiting enzyme agent is at a concentration of between 0.001% and 10%, by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

84. (New) The cosmetic composition according to claim 31, wherein the active agent is present in the composition in an effective amount for stimulating the synthesis of leptin by adipocytes.